



Deep Valley Sun

NEWSLETTER OF THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

To promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve historic landmarks in Mankato

VOL. 6 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2010

Turning an Old House Back Into a Beloved Home

By Jackie Hilgert

We saw it happen again and again this summer: Visitors would step into Betsy's house and their eyes would fill with tears. It was if they had come home for the first time in decades, come home to happy memories and cherished family, come to a place that surely existed in their storybook fantasies if not in their own private past. Yes, they had come to precisely that place. They'd arrived at the Ray house - to Betsy's home - that place at the end of Hill Street that Betsy "loved ... more than she loved any place on earth."

The essence of what makes a house a home is something not easily described nor achieved. Yet Candy Laven, BTS board member and volunteer curator, has worked tirelessly to recapture the essence of the Ray home. She's restyled much of the space to period already and admits it is a work in progress.

Laven uses Lois Lenski's depictions of Betsy's home life as the springboard for her vision, recognizing that it's those images visitors expect to see when they cross the threshold of time.

And see them they do - from the pot-bellied stove in the back parlor to the wicker rocker in the front, visitors can gaze at Lenski's drawings and see their reincarnations full scale. But they also will see more, such as painted glass lamps, family books on the book shelf, Blue Willow plates on the rail, and soft sunlight that filters into each room with a caressing touch. It all combines to capture that essence of home that could so easily have gone the way of minimalist design, where the space reminds you at every turn that you're in a museum instead of whispering *welcome home*.

Sunlight streams into the dining room of Betsy's House, illuminating the chunky legs of the oak dining table. Maud Hart Lovelace's hutch stands in the corner.



One can almost smell Mr. Ray's coffee boiling in the kitchen.

Lani Jordan, who visited from the Twin Cities, described it like this: "It was like walking into a home you'd always lived in."

As Laven leads our walk through Betsy's house, she talks less about what is here in front of us and more about her plans to realize her vision. In the dining room she's looking for chairs, linens, dishes, and artwork for the walls. The back parlor needs



Candy Laven

a coal bucket and a stove pipe to give the stove authenticity. The secretary is too bare: "I want those pigeon holes filled with knick-knacks, a jar of ink, pens, envelopes, books, 1-cent stamps... ."

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The Betsy-Tacy Society
 Est. 1990
 P.O. Box 94
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094
 507-345-9777
www.betsy-tacysociety.org
 501(c)3 organization

Board of Directors

President - Susan Brown
 Vice President - open
 Secretary - Laurie Pengra
 Treasurer - Barbara Schnoor

Board Members

Joan Brown, Candy Laven, Doug Laven,
 Pat Nelson, Bryce Stenzel, Lisa Wolf

Interim Director: Jackie Hilgert
 Newsletter Copy Editor: Betsy Sherman
 Newsletter Layout: Jackie Hilgert

Annual Membership Levels

Basic	\$25.00
Patron	\$50.00
Silver	\$100.00
Gold	\$250.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

For more information, see pg. 11

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Shop our online catalog:
www.betsy-tacysociety.org.
 Credit cards & PayPal available.
 For a catalog: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

Tacy's House and Gift Shop

March - May and September - December:
 Open every Saturday 1 pm - 3 pm
 June - August:
 Open every Saturday 10 am - 3 pm
 Closed: January - February

Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is at 333 Center Street. Saturday Admission - Adults \$3, Ages 6-16 \$1. Under 5-Free (no admission to gift shop only)

Special House Visits: Call 507-345-9777

For special house visits, advance reservations are requested 2 weeks in advance. Admission for special appointments: \$20 - up to 5 people. Over 5 people, additional \$3 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-16. This fee applies to members and non-members of the BTS. Special rates available for bus tours or school visits. Contact us for more details.

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Welcome New Members

June 1, 2010 - October 31, 2010
 Brammer, Rebecca
 Clark, Grace
 Custer, James
 Dimmel, Marcia
 Druschel, Margo
 Frederick, Heather
 Hansen, Tammy
 Hilgert, Becky
 King, Christine
 Millen, Maria
 Murray, Susan
 Pendergast, Charlotte
 Shellenbarger, Ivan
 Wood, Ruthann

Donations

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from June 1, 2010 - Oct. 31, 2010 from the following:

Donations to \$49

Brown, Bob & Susan - *In Memory of Eric Jacobson*
 Lindgren, Lyndy - *In Memory of Shadow & Miss Blackie*
 Millen, Maria
 Rose, Donna
 Sigworth, Andrea
 Smyth, Mary
 Welsch, Carol - *In Memory of Ethan Graham Welsch*
 Whiting, Rhonda

Donations \$50 - \$99

Adams, Amy Kay
 Canavan, Colleen - *Endowment Fund, in Memory of Virgil Demarais, Ruth Magnuson and Dick Ehrmann*
 Mandel, Heather
 PEO Chapter U
 Silverman, Jennet
 Steffan, Judy

Donations \$100 - \$999

Brown, Bob & Susan - *Restoration Fund*
 Lorentz Construction
 Lindborg, Lisa - *In Memory of Elizabeth McKibben*
 Mumm, Sandra
 Stollenwerk, Katherine - *Street assessments*

Donations \$1,000 or greater

Abdo, Julie - *In Memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*
 Berg, Steven - *In Memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*
 Berg, Kevin - *In Memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*
 Bresnan Foundation - *In Memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*
 Johnson, Janine
 Phares, Nancy - *In Memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*

Paver Fundraiser

June 1, 2010 - Oct. 31, 2010
 Brammer, Rebecca
 Cole, Kelly
 French, Judith
 Joa, Rhonda
 Harper Collins
 Madison, Rallah
 Seefeldt, Robert

Seiling, Susan
 Snow, Jody

In Kind Donations

Banwart, Penny - *ice cream for lawn party, food for annual picnic*
 Brown, Bob and Susan - *office supplies, window glass, costumes, food for annual picnic*
 Brown, Joan - *food for annual picnic*
 Falencyzkowski, Lona - *food for annual picnic, dishes, books*
 Harness, Cheryl - *July 17, 2010 presentation*
 Hilgert, Jackie - *food for annual picnic, baklava for book release party*
 Hrdlicka, Daryl - *costumes*
 Hynes, Susan - *costumes*
 Laven, Doug and Candy - *2 canopies, food for annual picnic, furniture restoration*
 Nelson, Pat - *food for annual picnic*
 Pengra, Laurie - *food for annual picnic*
 Setering, Jean - *Betsy-Tacy quilt*
 Walz, Rep. Tim - *U.S. Flag*

Thank You, Volunteers!

June 1, 2010 - Oct. 31, 2010

Ron Affolter
 Ana-Brit Asplen
 Alicia Bayer
 Anna Lee Bayer
 Victoria Bayer
 Penny Banwart
 Dale Benefield
 Denise Billington-Just
 Halle Blais
 Grace Brosnan
 Kathy Bodelson
 Bob Brown
 Joan Brown
 Susan Brown
 Regan Carstensen
 Abby Cherney
 Meghan Cherney
 Abby Clobes
 Andrew Clobes
 David Clobes
 Dawn Clobes
 Hannah Clobes
 Joshua Clobes
 Nathan Clobes
 Bob Diedrickson
 Marcia Dimmel
 Helen Dixon
 Margo Druschel
 Barb Dunker
 Larry Dunker
 Dale Ehlenfeldt
 Rod Elbert
 Lona Falencyzkowski
 Amy Friedman
 Carlienne Frisch
 Laura Garlow
 Samantha Gjovik
 Soliel Gjovik
 Kathryn Hanson
 Jim Hilgert
 Jackie Hilgert
 Alex Hrdlicka
 Daryl Hrdlicka
 Jack Hrdlicka
 Charlie Hurd
 Ann Huseby
 Ryker Huseby

Johnathon Hynes
 Susan Hynes
 Tim Hynes
 Shana Just
 Brenda Jaros
 Jeremiah Kloster
 Joshua Kloster
 Rebekah Kloster
 Sarah Kloster
 Breigha Kotulski
 Judy Kraft
 Candy Laven
 Doug Laven
 Jack Madsen
 Lee Masters
 Tacy Masters
 Wendi Masters
 Mariah Munsen
 Mara Natrakul
 Joan Nicolay
 Pat Nelson
 Mark Novak
 Rebecca Novak
 Ava Noy
 Ben Noy
 Jacqui Noy
 Jonathon Noy
 Mariah Noy
 Alex Oldenburg
 Renata Olson
 Sue Orchard
 Laurie Pengra
 Machenzie Penney
 Victoria Penney
 Celia Rehm
 Henry Rehm
 Lucy Rehm
 Will Rehm
 Kelly Reuter
 Megan Rheault
 Sarah Roemhildt
 Donahue Sarff
 Marilyn Sarff
 Barbara Schnoor
 Bryce Stenzel
 Norma Thomas
 Susan Wagenhals
 Lisa Wolf
 Emy Youngerberg
 Lucas Youngerberg

Artifact & Archive Donations

June 1, 2010 - Oct. 31, 2010
 Abdo, Julie - *kerosene table lamp*
 Baker, Pat - *Book: Daddy Long Legs (1912)*
 Blanchard, Lydia - *Correspondence with MHL (1955-56)*
 Harness, Cheryl - *Sketch of MHL done July 17, 2010*
 Karow, Linda - *dining room chair, 2 rugs*
 Lundquist, Romie - *graduation dress, circa 1920, worn by MHL's cousin*
 Reeves, Sally - *9 books written by MHL, 3 autographed*

Past editions of the
 Deep Valley Sun
 can be found in the
 members section
 of the BTS website:
www.Betsy-TacySociety.org

Message from the President

As I write this, the large maple tree in front of Betsy's house towers over colorful leaves on the front yard. The flower beds boast their final colors of the season while a few morning glories still bloom on the vines wrapped around the porch. This autumn scene reminds us that soon we'll be preparing for our annual Victorian Christmas here on Center Street. Our shop at Tacy's and on our website is ready for Christmas shoppers. Soon snow will blanket the roof on Betsy's yellow cottage.

The Harts and Kenneys warmly welcomed guests to their homes. We hope our BTS family and friends feel that same genuine welcome when they visit the Betsy-Tacy houses. Please know that the "hometown relatives" are watching over these houses with pride and a sense of responsibility. We know there are many others who wish they lived close enough to do so.

As homeowners, the society has regular maintenance to oversee. We appreciate Brenda, who faithfully tends to the beautiful flower gardens. We thank Rod for regularly mowing the yards. We are thankful for the generous and fair insurance settlement after a serious hailstorm in June damaged some siding and shingles, and also broke some windows. We are grateful to Denny for tuck-pointing the foundation at Tacy's, and repairing other roof and siding damage at Betsy's. We are glad there were 31 new pavers for Bob to install in the brick walkway at Betsy's.

Being president of the Betsy-Tacy Society is a big job and also a privilege. I have an amazing team working with me! I am grateful to our interim director, Jackie Hilgert, the board of directors, our volunteers, and all our members for investing in the BTS. It is a pleasure to meet the many guests who come to see where Betsy and Tacy lived. I am continually reminded how important the BTS mission is!

I invite you to visit us in Deep Valley! Throughout the year, treasured memories are still being made in these historic homes — just as they were when Maud and Bick lived here. My best wishes for a beautiful holiday season.

Susan Brown

President, Betsy-Tacy Society

Board News

Lisa Wolf joined the BTS board in September. Lisa is a lifelong resident of Mankato-North Mankato. She attended Loyola High School, and graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a degree in Business Administration and Communications. Lisa has been employed with Taylor Corporation companies for more than 20 years. Her positions include: project manager, product manager, marketing manager, marketing director, department manager, and currently, business marketing analyst. Lisa has been married to Dave Wolf for more than 25 years and they have two children, Nathaniel (21), and Amber (18). Besides being a member of the BTS Board, Lisa also volunteers in the community with the United Way, Merely Players and Holy Rosary Parish.

Update from the Director

Housecleaning. That's the quickest way to describe what's been going on inside the office of the executive director, which isn't exactly an office but any flat surface where I can pick up a WiFi connection. And I'm happy to report that that now includes Tacy's house. Getting the small cottage that serves as the BTS business center and gift shop wired for the Internet was one of the first tasks to get checked off the to-do list I assembled when, last August, I stepped into the ED role on an interim basis.

Now that I'm more than halfway through my contract to manage and reevaluate the BTS, allow me to pause and share some notable developments that have occurred this fall:

A complete overhaul of our website and online shop. The most visible change to the website is our new online store, with a layout that is more user-friendly and attractive. Also new is our **Share Stories** page, where visitors can describe their Maud encounters or write about how much the Betsy-Tacy series has meant to them. The most dramatic changes to the BTS website, however, have occurred behind the scenes, allowing us to manage our content, sales, and membership lists in a way that is sensible and efficient. We estimate the website overhaul, which was paid for through funds from a Schmidt Foundation grant, will save at least two hours of staff time per week.

Full automation of our on-site gift shop. One of the great challenges of our first two decades in operation was managing sales and inventory using a pencil-and-paper system, which was time-consuming (and redundant) and fertile ground for error. It had been a longtime goal of the board to automate the shop and enable credit card acceptance at the checkout counter.

I'm happy to report, that after a nominal investment of time and resources, the shop at Tacy's is now fully automated and credit card payments are accepted. The transition for shop volunteers has been easy, and we're confident that this shift is the right one for the BTS. On our first Saturday with a point-of-sale system in place, we processed 10 credit card transactions! Further, the sales tracking and inventory management features save time and allow the BTS to apply staff resources elsewhere.

Implementation of shared online calendar. We've simplified communication between board members and key volunteers who lead tours and help the BTS implement its programs. With a few clicks of the mouse, tour guides can find information on who is visiting when, and board members can be kept apprised of what's going on at the houses at all times.

Recommitment to social media outreach. The Betsy-Tacy Society is actively engaging fans on Facebook with near-daily updates. The BTS has a base of followers that increases every day; at press-time, it had 1,258 who've opted in to its Facebook page. And, more than 400 followers per week are actively engaged in our conversations, either by commenting or clicking the "like" feature tied to each post. A proactive approach to

Director's column continues on page 7

2010 Neighborhood Walk a Huge Success

It was 9 a.m. on September 25, and the Neighborhood Walk organizers were fixated on weather reports. Deep Valley had received nearly 10 inches of rain in the 48-hour stretch leading up to that morning and the clouds were just beginning to exit the area. But would they depart in time for scores of costumed children to safely take their places along the route? That was what concerned program chairman Susan Hynes the most – the safety and comfort of the children.

The forecast coming out of the Twin Cities was the most promising: The rain was moving quickly, the reporter said, and the afternoon should be nice. And so a decision was made to proceed with the 2010 Neighborhood Walk.

A glorious afternoon arrived about the time the first group of guests spilled from their cars. By the end of the day, two tours were added and more than 120 people had stepped back in time as guides led them from the Hart's to the bench and then on to the Kenney's, the Hunt's, the Wood's, the Williams', the schoolyard, and then back for refreshments.

The society thanks Susan Hynes (pictured below by the Betsy's House sign) for the hours she spent planning the walk, recruiting volunteers, costuming them, and keeping everyone on track. We couldn't have put this event on without her.

Below are images from the day, taken by Jack Madsen.

1. Greeting guests at the schoolyard are: Front row: Dale Ehlenfeldt and Jeremiah Kloster. In back, from left: Abby Clobes, Emy Youngerberg, Grace Brosan, Johnathon Hynes, Joshua Clobes, David Clobes, and Rebecca Novak. 2. On the front porch of the Williams' house, from left, are: Joshua Kloster, Rebekah Kloster, and Charlie Hurd. 3. Mark Novak, Susan Wagenhals, and Shana Just held court on the porch of the Hunt house. 4. As the Kenney family, in front are: Andrew Clobes and Hannah Clobes. In the middle are: Nathan Clobes and Dawn Clobes. Standing behind them is Tim Hynes. 5. Halle Blais plays "Tib" and Donahue Sarff and Marilyn Sarff greet guests to the porch of the Gerlach home. 6. Larry Dunker, Barb Dunker, and Mariah Munsen greet visitors to the Wood house.



Susan Hynes, above, chaired the Neighborhood Walk program this year, along with assuming the role of Stella Hart.

The Deep Valley Books Reissue Gives the BTS Cause to Celebrate

The Betsy-Tacy Society celebrated the reissue of the Deep Valley books – *Emily of Deep Valley*, *Winona's Pony Cart* and *Carney's House Party* – with a Book Release Party October 16. The day opened with costumed reenactors welcoming guests and passing out keepsakes from the day: Carney gave away her calling card; Emily offered a recipe for authentic Frog Legs; and Carney had “comps” for a production of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Volunteer Lucas Youngerberg helped lend a festive feel to the day with his violin.

Guests were given a chance at two prize drawings during the event. Nancy Carpenter won a hardcover edition of

Winona's Pony Cart and a canvas Betsy-Tacy book bag. Judy Kraft won the custom-framed Immortal Trio Print.

The BTS also offered guest refreshments – lemonade and baklava – and individual pieces of baklava were packaged for take away for a \$1 donation. With Mankato's stunning autumn weather holding through most of October, the day was, by all accounts, a success.



1. Volunteer reenactors helped make the Deep Valley Book Release Party a great success. These children are “the real crowd!” Above, standing in the back, from left, are: Breigha Kotulski as Carney; Laura Garlow as Betsy; Alex Oldenburg as Emily, and Lucas Youngerberg, the violinist. Standing in front is Shana Just as Winona. 2. The reissued Deep Valley books on display in the front parlor. 3. Volunteer Margo Druschel offers samples of authentic Little Syria baklava. 4. Shana Just captures Winona Root perfectly! 5. An informal gathering on Betsy's Lawn. 6. The keepsakes visitors received at the party.



6.

Carney Sibley

We are from Vassar
Vassar are we
Singing for gladness
Right merrily...

BTS Deep Valley Book Release Party; October 16, 2010

6.

Pan Fried Frog Legs

10 to 12 frog legs
3 tbsps. salt
3 tbsps. vinegar
3 pt. water
1/2 c. evaporated milk
Pepper
Lard

FROG LEGS
Always Fresh!

Clean and skin the frog legs. Mix salt and pepper in enough water to cover the legs and soak them for 2 hours. Take out of the water and pat dry. Dip in milk, sprinkle with pepper then roll in flour. Fry in lard.

Recipe from the cupboard of Emily of Deep Valley - BTS Book Release Party; October 16, 2010.

Furnishing Betsy's House, continued from page 1

The parents' bedroom presents her with the greatest challenge. She's hoping to find a Mission-style headboard and footboard, not more than five-feet tall. There could be a mirror on a stand, a hall tree, rugs, portraits for the walls, and clothes, hats and shoes on display in the closet. And she'd like to find a small cradle that, like the rest of the furniture, dates from the early 1900s.

The furnishings in place are fine for now, she explains. But some are more appropriate than others, and when she comes upon something that more closely fits her vision, she'll move pieces out, perhaps sell them to raise money if she's allowed. She doesn't necessarily have that freedom, however. Many pieces in the house are on loan and will be returned to their owners if their usefulness diminishes.

This brings to mind the difference between a loan and a gift. When furnishings are offered as a gift, the society informs donors of the possibility that the item may, at some point, be sold to raise funds. "If a donor doesn't want an item ever to be sold, then it's not a gift but a loan," said BTS President Susan Brown.

Laven's introduction to the idea of furnishing homes through "collecting" came when she was dating her future husband, Doug, and he brought her home to meet his mother. Norma Laven, a Mankato native who now lives in Colorado, has nurtured a life-long passion for decorating and collecting, and has passed it along to her son and now her daughter-in-law. "Her house is full of antiques," Laven says. "When all three of her children married, they were able to start their lives with a houseful of antiques." The elder Mrs. Laven collects primitives while Candy Laven immerses herself in all things Victorian.

Not all of the pieces people wish to donate are appropriate for the home, she said. Others are perfect. She points out the oak dining room table and buffet, both added to the room once the soft-spoken decorator touched up their finishes. The buffet was sitting

unused in the basement of member Linda Karow; the table was pulled from the garage of member Lona Falenczykowski. Victorian homes, she explained, would have used hardwoods in their furnishings. "This table is too pretty to be sitting in a garage," she said. "Look at the chunky legs."

Both pieces match the period and came to the BTS from members, which pleases Laven; she doesn't believe the society should have to buy furnishings. "If people have a special piece, maybe something that was handed down to them by a grandparent but perhaps it doesn't fit in their own homes, they can lend it to Betsy's house. This is a special place where items will be safe, well cared for, and appreciated by others."

Laven is given latitude over the decision to accept or reject items that are offered to the society. Her knowledge of Victorian artifacts is well-refined, and she admits her personal decorating style is in keeping with one who collects. She doesn't like bare shelves or empty table tops. "I'm attracted to homes where there is a lot to look at," she said. Not being able to see it all, absorb it all, in one visit gives her motivation to return, she explained.

Laven keeps Betsy's house in mind when she visits antique shops, thrift shops, and auctions. "I always ask myself, 'How will it fit?'" she said of her forays into the dusty holdings of others' discards. If she can rescue an item, meaning from a curb or dumpster, she always does. "I can fix something up and sell it to raise funds for something better," she said.

Soon, Laven expects to have a rattan curtain in place to separate the front parlor from the back, another nod to Lenski's art and the Ray family, who seemingly never left the place behind. But the Ray family did move and Betsy, though reluctantly, came to view the High Street house as home, saying: "it was full of the things that make a house a home."

So it is with the yellow cottage at the end of Hill Street. Come see it. ❖



Lois Lenski illustrations are the frame of reference for furnishing Betsy's House. The back parlor stove and the wicker chair and table above are literally pulled from the page. The Blue Willow plates are a nod to Candy Laven's grandmother, who collected dishes.

On the Hunt for Artifacts

Some of the items Candy Laven has said she's looking for as she continues to furnish Betsy's house are listed below. Laven notes that many of them are mentioned in Maud Hart Lovelace's *Living With Writing*.

If any of you have an item you wish to lend the society, or donate with the understanding that we may ultimately sell it to raise funds, we encourage you to contact us in writing. Please include a photo of the item and any background information you have on it, which will help us determine if it is appropriate for the home.

FRONT PARLOR

Lamps with painted shades
Table for coffee service
Umbrella stand
Coat stand

BACK PARLOR

Breakfront desk - could use Maud's table
Lamps with painted shades
Low table near Mr. Hart's chair
Knick-knacks for the cozy corner
Fainting couch
Coal bucket
Stove pipe

DINING ROOM

4-6 matching chairs for the dining table, either pressed back or mule ear
A telephone chair or small table under the telephone
Sideboard
Large area rug
Artwork for the walls, either religious or still life
Linens
Dishes

KITCHEN

Rag rugs
Wood box
Match holder
Pictures for walls
Small table with washstand and mirror
A fixture for the ceiling (milk glass shade/wrought iron)

BEDROOM

Tall headboard/footboard bed (Mission style) - with spring
Washstand
Decorated wash bowl, pitcher, and chamber pot
Rugs
Lamps with plain shades
Baby crib or cradle
Mirror on stand
Hall tree
Quilts/pillows
Pictures in gold frames
A small vanity
Period clothes, shoes, hats for closet

A Glance Back in Time



This photograph of Maud Hart Lovelace was taken by Ken Berg, circa 1974, in Claremont, California. Note the photographs on the wall behind Maud, including Maud's sister Kathleen, which touches Maud's shoulder, Stella Hart (top right), Delos Lovelace (top center), and Frances "Bick" Kenney (left center). Photos cut off by the camera frame are Thomas Hart (top) and Helen Hart (bottom). *Photo courtesy of the Ken and Marilyn Berg family.*

Director's column, continued from page 3

Facebook offers the BTS growth potential for its membership, its product sales, and its donations.

Process re-evaluation. A goal for the transition period has been to reevaluate business processes so that the board and the membership can be assured that resources are being applied to the BTS mission effectively. In that vein, the board is examining all activities conducted in the past to discern if there has been a tangible impact on the BTS mission. In some cases, activities that required a great deal of volunteer hours had little lasting effect and its likely those programs will not be repeated.

Internal processes also are being evaluated and simplified, and policies are being documented to enhance transparency. BTS President Susan Brown wrote in the last edition of the *Deep Valley Sun* that our transition in leadership offered an opportunity to strengthen BTS. I assure you that the BTS is stronger and more operationally efficient than ever, and in a great position to meet the challenges of increased outreach.

The board has begun the process of identifying a suitable candidate to assume a leadership role in the new year. When the hiring process is complete and our new executive director is trained, I will return to my position as vice president of the board, satisfied that I've made a positive impact on an organization that was open to change in order to meet the challenges of a new era.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Jackie Hilgert

News & Notes

The Betsy-Tacy Society extends its sympathy to the Noy family on the passing of **David Noy**. **Jacqui Noy** and children (**Mariah, Jonathan, Ben,** and **Ava**) were in costume last June helping the BTS with its Ice Cream Social in Sibley Park. Jacqui also played Mrs. Ray in the Readers' Theatre at Betsy's birthday party in 2009 and she was Mrs. Kelly at the Neighborhood Walk in 2008. Jacqui can often be found in costume at BTS events along with many of her and David's seven children. The Noy's have been faithful volunteers throughout David's 5-year battle with cancer.

Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the BTS was able to create six storybook kits built around themes extracted from *Betsy-Tacy*, *Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill*, and *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*. There are three distinct kits, designed sequentially, and the BTS created duplicates to make the kits easier for people to access. The storybook kits will circulate throughout the nine county library system serving southern Minnesota. Each kit offers a book and several activities designed to enhance comprehension of the stories, themes and setting.



The BTS accepts online donations through GiveMN.org, an innovative online resource for Minnesota nonprofits. 100 percent of donations made through GiveMN.org go directly to the BTS. It's a secure, fast, and easy way to donate to the BTS. You'll find the GiveMN.org link on our membership page.

What's more, November 16 is slated as **GIVE TO THE MAX DAY**. From 8:00 a.m. on November 16 to 8:00 a.m. on November 17, an individual donor will be randomly chosen every hour to have \$1,000 added to their donation. What that means is even a \$10 donation has the potential to have a huge impact on the BTS.

We hope you will help support the BTS by logging on to www.GiveMN.org on November 16 to make a donation of any size.

What your donations do for us: You help us promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's work for current and future generations; support on-going restoration efforts; preserve two historic literary landmarks; help us continue preservation and care of Lovelace artifacts; support special literary and historical events and programs; and assist us in securing matching grants from other foundations and organizations. Please be generous.

Heather Vogel Frederick came to Mankato to visit the Betsy-Tacy houses and to do preliminary research for the fifth book in the

Mother-Daughter Book Club series, which will feature *Betsy In Spite of Herself* with references to other Betsy-Tacy books. Vogel Frederick is working on the first draft of the book with a release scheduled for fall 2011.



In the adjacent photo, Vogel Frederick (left) and BTS member **Kathy Baxter** visit the famous Betsy-Tacy bench.

Tracy (Hegg) Hall, Mankato High School class of 1960, along with friends who returned to Mankato from around the country, took part in the BTS Neighborhood Walk in September. Hall writes: "My friends and I thoroughly enjoyed the walking tour as it took place during the time our high school class was celebrating its 50th reunion." Hall and her friends grew up with and adored the Betsy-Tacy books, she said. "I don't know if you [scheduled the walk] to coincide with the reunion, or if it was just a happy coincidence, but we loved it, whatever the reason! Thanks for all the society's hard work in preserving this very special time in our history."

LauraPalooza: Legacies 2010, a conference to celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder and her *Little House* books was held on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato, on July 14-17.



Susan Hynes, dressed as Mrs. Ray, represented the BTS at the ice cream social on opening night. Approximately 55 conference participants chose the Betsy-Tacy breakout session held at the B-T houses July 16. Our guests were greeted by BTS volunteers who shared our story and also hosted tours of the neighborhood.

The celebration continued on Saturday, when many Betsy and Laura fans gathered together at the end of Center Street for presentations, tours, music, refreshments, and stories. Author-illustrator **Cheryl Harness** (pictured above) introduced and signed her two new coloring books featuring Betsy and Laura. The guests watched Cheryl draw a portrait of Maud which is now displayed at Tacy's house. ❖

"Isn't it mysterious to begin a new journal like this? I can run my fingers through the fresh clean pages but I cannot guess what the writing on them will be. It is almost as though I were ushered into the Winding Hall of Fate, but next day's destiny was hidden behind a turning." - Betsy in Spite of Herself



The Betsy Tacy Convention to be held July 19-22, 2012!

Enter *The Winding Hall of Fate* - where you can follow Betsy, Tacy, the Rays and the rest of the crowd across the great state of Minnesota.

Pack your toniest shirtwaist for the tour of Minneapolis. You can visit the Bow Street apartment, see the Canoe Place house and Minnehaha Falls. You may even take a boat tour of Lake Minnetonka or go dancing at the Radisson! From "the cities" you will travel via the Sibley's auto (okay, it is really a bus, but one can dream...) with the rest of the crowd to Mankato, the real Deep Valley.

In Mankato, you will see where the books you love took place - the Hill Street houses, the Carnegie Library, Carney's house - see where the High Street house and Deep Valley High School stood, even sit in Lincoln Park, that pie-shaped wedge.

In addition to the local sites, you will be sharing the weekend with other Maud Hart Lovelace fans. Lovelace scholar **Kathy Baxter** will be returning to speak along with plenty of notables who have been influenced by Maud, including author **Mitali Perkins** and other writers. There will be a panel with the descendants of the people who inspired the characters of the Betsy Tacy books, as well as people who have been instrumental in their production. Needless to say, there will be delicious food, sparkling entertainment and lots and lots of laughter. Even if you have attended previous conventions, you will find many new experiences, entertainment and new friends to keep you coming back for the next one!

Don't wonder what you might find down that *Winding Hall of Fate*. Instead, join the crowd and visit Deep Valley and find out for yourself!

For more information, visit www.betsytacyconvention.com which is regularly updated with new information about the convention. Registration starts Spring 2011. Spaces will be limited for many of the tours, so plan to register early!

Give the Gift of Betsy-Tacy: Online Store Makes Giving Easier Than Ever

Gift shop sales are a wonderful way to support the BTS during the holidays and year-round! Whether you're shopping for yourself or for that special someone on your gift list, we have unique gifts that are sure to please. Many of our items are custom made especially for the BTS and are not found anywhere else. Visit our newly redesigned online shop and browse our comprehensive selection of books and gifts. Avoid the holiday rush by shopping early. Consider also donating a Betsy-Tacy book to a needy child this holiday season. Here are a few things you'll find in the BTS online giftshop:

Betsy's 10th Birthday Party Notecards:

Illustration by Lois Lenski. Blank note card folded with envelope. (5-1/2" x 4-1/4") Pale pink card stock. Back of card has quote from *Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill*. Perfect for birthday party invitations! **\$7.50 per package of 6.**



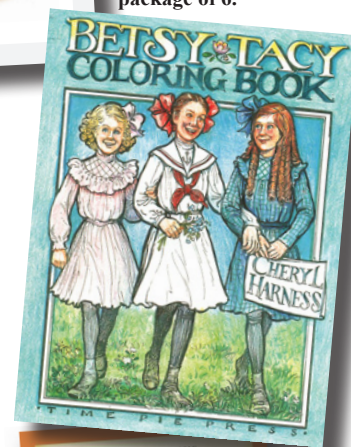
Betsy's Trunk

Betsy's Trunk Notecards:

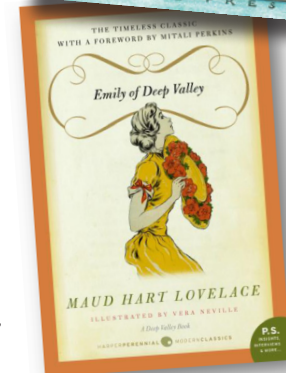
Illustration by Vera Neville. Back of card has quotes from *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown* and *Heaven to Betsy*. Blank note card folded with envelope. (5-1/2" x 4-1/4") **\$7.50 per package of 6.**

Betsy-Tacy Coloring Book:

Released in 2010 from Cheryl Harness, the Betsy-Tacy Coloring Book offers 19 pages of detailed illustrations inspired by the Betsy-Tacy book series. Designs are pre-shaded, making the book perfect for colored pencil art. **\$4.95**



Emily of Deep Valley: Emily Webster, an orphan living with her grandfather, is not like the other girls her age in Deep Valley, Minnesota. The gulf between Emily and her classmates widens even more when they graduate from Deep Valley High School in 1912. Emily longs to go off to college with everyone else, but she can't leave her grandfather. Emily resigns herself to facing a "lost winter," but soon decides to stop feeling sorry for herself. And with a new program of study, a growing interest in the Syrian community, and a handsome new teacher at the high school to fill her days, Emily gains more than she ever dreamed. Published by HarperTrophy, Illustrated by Vera Neville. 290 pp. **\$12.99**



Leave a Legacy

We all leave our own unique mark on this world through our families, work, and the organizations we believe in and support. We celebrate these legacies at the Betsy-Tacy Society – after all, this is the heart of the history we are passionately working to preserve every day.

A legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, can help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve and promote the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and her works for future generations. If you are also thinking about the future, please consider a legacy gift to help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve these historic literary houses (childhood homes of Maud Hart Lovelace and Frances “Bick” Kenney) and the precious Lovelace artifacts and archives for many years to come.

As we look to the future, the BTS is researching the possibility of creating an endowment fund. Our first move toward this endeavor has been to become a member of LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, a collaborative effort to educate the public and promote the idea of giving through bequests and estate plans by increasing awareness of and interest in charitable giving options. The creation of an endowment fund will take some time as we investigate all the possibilities and legal aspects.

To learn more about LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, visit its website: www.leavealegacymankato.org.

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society website



We are continually adding new information to our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org. A member benefit is a “Members Only” page. Members only need to create a password to enter this page, which features current and back issues of the *Deep Valley Sun* and other special articles and member information. Don’t forget to check out our updated shop!

Membership News

Renewal Reminder

Renewal notices will be emailed to members on their renewal dates, which is Dec. 31 for most members. (We transitioned most of you to calendar year memberships during the last two years.) Due to upgrades in our website, however, we are now able to track memberships more accurately. Going forward, you can be assured that renewal dates will reflect the date you actually paid your annual dues. We are confident in our new system and appreciate everyone’s patience as we’ve worked through this process.

Membership Cards

BTS members will still receive a membership card with each new or renewed membership. Use your card to receive free admission to the Betsy-Tacy houses during regular Saturday hours. As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society, we remind you that you are part of the family and thus are welcome to spend time in the homes that are very much yours to enjoy.

Paver Fundraiser

Set your name in stone or honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing a paving stone for Betsy’s house. An order form can be downloaded from the BTS website. This fundraiser/memorial will continue until the entire walkway by Betsy’s house is filled with engraved pavers! Blank pavers are replaced by engraved pavers as the orders come in.

You can order a paver as a gift and we’ll send you a certificate, then follow up with a photo once the paver is set.



This BTS fundraiser has allowed us to finish restoring Betsy’s House and now allows the society to keep this historic literary landmark in its best possible condition for visitors, some of whom travel from across the country for their Betsy-Tacy experience.



Find us on
Facebook

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society page on Facebook. **You don’t have to be a member of Facebook to view our page.** Browse the commentary and join in if you’d like.

You can find us at: www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy

New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, a Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more. With each new paid lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of *Winona's Pony Cart*, a Betsy's House ornament, and a lifetime membership certificate.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:

- Be kept abreast of developments with the society and its outreach.
- Have access to the "Members Only" page on the BTS website, where society archives are available.
- Be an integral part of the BTS mission to preserve the Betsy-Tacy houses, which are historical literary landmarks.
- Help BTS reach a new generation of readers as it introduces the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace.
- Be a part of the movement that values history and appreciates literature.

Great Gift Idea

Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society makes a great gift for that special person on your gift list. With each paid gift membership, we'll send a new-member packet and sign your name to a special card announcing your gift. Just fill out the membership form at right with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.



When contacting the BTS....

By Mail - Always send mail to the following address:

Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Do not use the address printed in the back of the older issues of the Betsy-Tacy books and do not address mail to us at the Center Street location. We do not have a mailbox at either house, and the mail carrier cannot deliver to these addresses.

By Email - When sending an email, ALWAYS use "Betsy-Tacy" in the subject line. This will help ensure your message does not get caught in spam filters.

By Phone - Our phone number - 507-345-9777 - reaches an answering service. Please leave your message and it will be returned by someone with the society who can best help you.

Privacy Statement

The Betsy-Tacy Society is committed to respecting the privacy of our members. Please be assured that we do not rent or sell our mailing list. If you have any questions about your member information and how it is used, please contact us at membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or 507-345-9777.

Due to increased printing costs, this newsletter is being printed in black and white, the most affordable option available. A full-color version of this newsletter is available on the BTS website, in the Membership section: <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/memberlogin.php>

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

New Renewal

I would like: Mailed Newsletters

Electronic Newsletters

Choose electronic newsletter - save money for the BTS and save a tree!

Membership Levels

\$25 Basic (Foreign members receive electronic newsletters - if mailed are preferred move up to the next level.)

\$50 Patron

\$100 Silver*

\$250 Gold* (Gift A or B - circle one)

\$500 Lifetime (Gifts A and C)

Pay in 4 installments of \$125

* Denotes business memberships

Please do not send my gift. I want my full contribution to support the BTS.

GIFTS

Gift A: *Winona's Pony Cart* - hardcover

Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards

Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

Donations

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ above my yearly membership dues.

I would like to allocate my gift to:

Unrestricted

General Fund

Restoration Fund

Assessment Fund

No acknowledgement for donation required

Donation in Memory of:

Donation in Honor of:

Membership dues and monetary gifts cover a growing part of the BTS annual operating budget. Thank you for your support as the BTS preserves and promotes the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

Please return this form to:

BTS Membership

P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094



Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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Calendar of Events

December 4	Betsy-Tacy Victorian Christmas
March 8-9, 2011	Young Writers & Artist's Conference
April 23, 2011	Betsy's Birthday Party
June 9, 2011	Annual Meeting

Details of future events will be posted on the News & Events page of the BTS website, www.betsy-tacysociety.org/events. Though BTS suspends Saturday tours during January and February, special tours of the Betsy-Tacy houses are available year-round by appointment. Plus, shop online 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week at: www.betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog.

Address Changes

Please remember to inform us if your mailing address or e-mail address changes. Most of our mailings are sent via bulk mail to save on postage costs and keep membership rates low. Bulk mail is NOT forwarded even when a change-of-address card is left with the post office.

Membership Information

As your membership expires, you'll receive an e-mail reminder to renew. Please renew promptly to save the BTS staff time and postage for sending renewal notices via USPS. You can renew online at www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membershippurchase.